

**From:** Mario M. Butter  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/27/02 1:00pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I am opposed to the provisions of the Justice Department settlement with Microsoft due to my understanding that under the proposed final order, Microsoft can withhold technical information from third parties. This release of technical information is required for the development of third party software (especially public domain software) that will interact with Microsoft products. The withholding of this information will serve only to stifle the development and implementation of free and commercial software over which Microsoft has no control.

Under this agreement, Microsoft has a number of strategies to undermine development of software by other entities, which requires a sharing of information. These actions can allow Microsoft to continue it's monopoly power and to expand that power further into the marketplace. These practices will harm development of alternative software, stifle the development of alternative platforms and lead to more consumer harm as Microsoft continues to increase it's fees for it's monopoly products.

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Mario

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#include <std\_disclaimer.h> | ^\_^^

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I didn't fight my way to the top of the food chain to be a vegetarian.